

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please delete the present heading and insert a new heading as follows:

~~Description~~ Background of the Invention

On page 3, line 7, please insert the following heading:

~~--Summary of the Invention--~~

On page 3, lines 8 through 14, please amend this paragraph as follows:

This object is achieved with ~~the features of Claim 1~~ a receptacle that is provided on its four vertical outer sides with means that are adapted to engage in like means of an adjacent receptacle, wherein such means serve to position the receptacle in a defined manner relative to one or more adjacent receptacles and to horizontally interlock said receptacles. As a result, it is possible to lock together mechanically containers arranged beside and above one another, without manual action being necessary. At the same time, the container to be set down is adjusted in relation to the containers already set down, by a device ~~in accordance with Subclaims 4 and 5~~ where the means have upper sections which are bevelled in a manner sloping from the outside inwardly. Furthermore, at least one region of the means can have lower sections that are bevelled in a manner sloping from the outside inwardly and/or from the inside outwardly, so that the container to be set down is positioned in a defined manner in relation to the adjacent containers.

On page 3, lines 16 through 21, please amend this paragraph as follows:

The achievement of the object ~~in accordance with Claim 1~~ comprises attaching to the outer sides of the containers means, for example guide rails, which engage in corresponding guide rails of adjacent containers and, because containers are set down from above downwards, bring about interengagement of the respective guide rails and in the process horizontal locking.

On page 4, line 18, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 5, lines 5-6, please amend this paragraph as follows:

- Fig. 3 shows, in the viewing direction A from Fig. 2, an outer locking device with bevelled corners;

On page 5, line 9, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 8, after line 5, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of PCT/DE02/00168 filed January 19, 2002.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

In addition, please add the following abstract to the specification:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A receptacle is provided, on the outer walls of which hollow bodies are provided for receiving locking devices for locking to like receptacles. On its four vertical outer sides, the receptacle is provided with devices that are adapted to engage in like devices of an adjacent receptacle. The devices serve to position the receptacle in a defined manner relative to one or more adjacent receptacles and to horizontally interlock the receptacles.